

Rebuild America in Partnership with ENERGY STAR® for Congregations



America's congregations are the living embodiment of our religious freedom, traditions of tolerance and diversity of faiths. In surveys, nearly 70 percent of Americans say they are highly influenced by their faith each day. Congregation members are community leaders who also own businesses and homes. Many faith-based organizations themselves have significant property holdings – including buildings that could benefit from energy-saving measures. Add to this that most faiths teach stewardship of financial and natural resources, and it is easy to see why Rebuild America cares about the energy efficiency of faith-based organizations.

To provide energy-efficiency technical support for individual congregations in communities across the United States, Rebuild America turns to one of its Strategic Partners, ENERGY STAR®. The ENERGY STAR program has two basic parts. First, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) work with manufacturers who voluntarily meet energy-efficiency performance standards to earn the ENERGY STAR label on equipment and appliances. The label helps consumers make informed purchases.

Second, complementing Rebuild America's community approach, ENERGY STAR for congregations provides free information, technical support and public recognition of the achievements of individual faith-based organizations in Rebuild America partnerships.

What resources are available to Rebuild America representatives?

ENERGY STAR for congregations provides an award-winning Web site at www.energystar.gov and a toll-free hotline at 1-888 STAR YES where faith-based organizations can get help with calculations and energy-saving strategies from ENERGY STAR engineers.

Other resources include:

- Informational brochures for congregations
- Special Web pages for congregations, residences and small businesses

ENERGY STAR Snapshots

■ *Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) in New Haven, CT began lighting upgrades in 1999 in its 33,000 square-foot facility. Recently, BEKI replaced a 40-year-old air conditioning unit. The new unit will save more than \$6,000 annually and its annual payment will be less than repair bills for the old unit. The 36,000 kWh saved will prevent about 62,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions annually.*

According to Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen, "Energy conservation and environmental concern are deeply held religious values in Conservative Judaism."

■ *Covington Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Taylor Mill, KY is a 4,800 square-foot facility with an adjoining elementary school of about 13,600 square feet. The church has upgraded to a new high efficiency HVAC system, added ceiling fans, installed programmable thermostats, light-emitting diode (LED) exit signs and emergency lighting. The annual savings of more than \$2,700 are from 21,740 kWh saved, which prevents about 48,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions annually.*

Adam Palmer, building committee chair, says, "Doubters in the congregation became convinced once the real financial and environmental benefits were realized."

- "Success stories" of actual upgrades
- National awards for congregations
- Online directory of financing, products and services featuring Rebuild America Business Partners
- Zip-code based "store finder" for ENERGY STAR labeled products
- Free 100-page guide book, "Putting Energy into Stewardship"
- Toll-free calls to ENERGY STAR engineers

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ENERGY STAR will recognize on its Web site Rebuild America communities that submit the best congregation "success stories," and will publicize national award winners in media advisories to local radio, television and newspapers.

Success stories and awards cite the energy and dollars saved, and the pollution prevented by a congregation's upgrades. Such stories raise awareness and encourage others to tap into the benefits of the Rebuild America-ENERGY STAR strategic partnership.

Congregations can cut energy costs by about 30 percent, and with a well-designed efficiency upgrade, they can benefit almost immediately. Month-by-month, the savings on energy will pay for the new equipment with no net increase in monthly costs. Efficient equipment "pays its own way" with waste reduction.

12 Simple Surefire Energy-Savers

1. Turn off lights and equipment not in use
2. Buy ENERGY STAR labeled products
3. Install lighting "occupant sensors" in appropriate locations
4. Adjust lighting to actual needs by using free "daylighting"
5. Tune-up HVAC system with an annual maintenance contract
6. Regularly change or clean HVAC filters
7. Install a programmable HVAC thermostat
8. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) wherever appropriate
9. Install LED exit signs
10. Control direct sun through windows
11. Use fans
12. Caulk and weatherstrip air leaks

Rebuild America representatives can help congregations understand that dollars spent on wasted energy can be used to finance efficient new equipment. With manufacturers focused on earning the ENERGY STAR label, product improvements and innovations make it easy to save money and prevent pollution.

Working together, Rebuild America and ENERGY STAR can help congregations find financing and Business Partners with the products and services to improve their lighting, heating/air-conditioning systems, office equipment and building shell resulting in energy savings, improved employee productivity and member comfort. The "asset value" of the facility can even be enhanced by the right energy-efficiency upgrade.

ENERGY STAR Snapshots

■ *Bethesda Lutheran in Ames, IA* has upgraded the efficiency of its 35,000 square-foot church and is saving about \$5,000 annually. The 71,500 kWh saved will prevent about 100,300 pounds of CO₂ emissions each year. Lloyd Lockhart, Bethesda Lutheran's business administrator, says, "The rooms are more comfortable, lighting in the halls is good, and our gas and electric bills are lower."

Bethesda Lutheran achieved the savings by replacing incandescent lamps with CFLs and installing computer controls to regulate the temperature of only occupied rooms. The church purchased new energy-efficient freezers for the food pantry and kitchen, and installed new storm windows over the stained glass windows.

■ *St. Elizabeth of Hungary, a 19,800 square-foot church in Wyandotte, MI*, upgraded to an efficient boiler, replaced all incandescent lamps with halogen lamps and installed an efficient air-conditioning system and water-saving toilets. The congregation has saved \$11,000 a year in utilities, and the 114,300 kWh saved will prevent about 227,200 pounds of CO₂ emissions annually. St. Elizabeth's also plans to install solar shingles on the rectory garage roof for a photovoltaic system to provide solar heated hot water.

■ *Sikh Religious Temple in Palatine, IL* has completed a new energy-efficient addition with the voluntary assistance of National Engineering Services, Inc. The temple added water-saving faucets, photo-controls, occupancy sensors for lighting and a high-efficiency HVAC system. The temple installed CFLs and high-intensity metal halide fixtures, resulting in \$720 monthly savings (12 percent annually) from utility and maintenance cost reductions.

How can Rebuild America representatives tap the support available from ENERGY STAR for congregations?

Just call toll-free 1-888 STAR YES, and ask for "congregations tech support" or send an e-mail with your specific request from the Web site at www.energystar.gov indicating you are a Rebuild America representative. ENERGY STAR will send support materials and call to discuss your needs.